Athene LaJeunesse

Professor Surmacz

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Project Proposal

I want to make an interactive architecture map of Boston and the surrounding area. I envision a map with highlighted regions that the user can hover over to see the name of the architectural style and a reference image. Users will be able to click to open a new page for each style or neighborhood with much more information and highlights of particular buildings. Information will be flexible to be presented from multiple perspectives. For example, a user should be able to look at a neighborhood to see which architectural categories of buildings are in it, and should also be able to look at an architectural category and then see which neighborhoods it appears in. Further features of the website could include a walking route planner, significant buildings organized by architect, or a timeline of development in Boston. This will be an educational website that will be engaging for those interested in the topic. It can also serve as a reference for tourists or for college students not local to the region. Ultimately, this architecture map will be

As of right now, all I can envision is that I'll be using and going beyond the CSS/HTML frameworks we've begun to cover in class. I'd like to have some sort of hover function that is attached to specific elements of an image, at the moment I don't know how I would be able to make that work. I'd like to design my own simple vector icons for architectural styles and elements so that I can maintain a consistent illustration style that can be scaled to any device size. [Note: I used images from the web in the end, I needed to spend more time on website construction.] I envision a simple, clean website so that any photographs and images that I include will stand out without looking cluttered.

Once I begin developing the project, I do not want to be bogged down by researching the topic itself, but instead focus my energy on website construction. I may pare down the amount of information I include as a result, and regardless this project will rest on existing research and resources. Current websites that I can find right now utilize an embedded Google map with markers for locations, but these are not very easy to use and are not visually pleasing.

I anticipate that creating this idea for mobile may prove challenging, particularly because Boston is a very east-west oriented city. My initial idea is to do this project with Boston because we are in Boston, but I would be interested in doing this project with Oakland both because it's my home and because it's more vertically oriented. An additional consideration for mobile is that hovering becomes tapping, with a second tap being equivalent to a click on desktop. If users want to zoom in on the map, it must be easy to do so without triggering a tap into an architecture style page.

Generally, I'm interested in making art and architecture references that are engaging and practical, so I'm willing to explore other ideas within this category if I encounter issues with the map.